

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 5, 15, 17, 18, 21-26, 38-40, 42-46, and 53 remain in this application. Claims 1, 4, 17, 18, 21, 25, 26, 42, 43, and 53 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 7, 16, 32, and 41 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 17, 18, 21, 22, 25, 26, and 42-44 are independent.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 15, 17, 25, 26, 40, and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,111,871 (Chen et al.). Claims 18, 21, 38, 39, 42, and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Chen et al.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of Claims 22-24 and 44-46 and the indication that Claims 7 and 32 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with no change in scope. Since Claims 1 and 26 have been rewritten to incorporate the subject matter of Claims 7 and 32, respectively, Claims 1 and 26 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

In addition, independent Claims 17, 18, 21, 25, 42, and 43 have each been amended to incorporate subject matter substantially similar to that of Claim 7 (or Claim 32), and thus those claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 4 was objected to for an informality. Applicant has corrected Claim 4, and, accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

Claims 16 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as being non-enabled. Cancellation of Claims 16 and 41 renders the rejections of those claims moot. Applicant does not concede the propriety of those rejections.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Raymond D. Perna".

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